



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHILIP ANGELIDES

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LEGISLATION TO LOCATE STATE OFFICES IN DOWNTOWN CENTERS UNVEILED

Sacramento, CA— State Treasurer Philip Angelides, State Senator Patrick Johnston and Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg, today announced that they will sponsor and introduce legislation that would concentrate the location of State owned and leased offices throughout California in central business districts of cities and rural communities.

The legislation will be authored by Assemblymember Steinberg who represents the downtown Sacramento area, and co-authored by Senator Patrick Johnston, who played a key role in the recent consolidation of State offices in downtown Sacramento.

“State policies with respect to location of office space should work to strengthen and revitalize California communities,” said Angelides, who recently authored *Smart Investments*, a report advocating cost-effective state investments that support sustainable development and community revitalization. “This legislation will better conserve our resources and utilize existing infrastructure, while encouraging needed investment in California cities and towns.”

The State of California occupies 34 million square feet of office space at more than 2,400 locations statewide. This amount of square footage represents more than all of the privately owned office space that exists in downtown Los Angeles, and more than three times the amount in all of downtown Sacramento.

Forty-three percent of state office space is leased, at an annual cost of more than \$300 million. Despite this significant annual investment, California has no comprehensive policy in place to guide the selection of locations of both leased and newly acquired State offices.

“The State of California can be a leader in promoting Smart Growth strategies,” said Steinberg, the measure’s author. “This bill is a major step toward integrating Smart Growth concepts into how the State invests in public office space.”

“The State has an opportunity to help revitalize downtown areas by the location of its buildings,” said Johnston. “This bill fights sprawl and helps rebuild our cities.”

The proposal is designed to support sound growth patterns in California cities and towns, save the State and its taxpayers millions of dollars annually in leases and operating expenses, improve accessibility to State services and facilities for both customers and employees, reduce traffic congestion, and improve air quality. If adopted, California will join entities such as the federal government, the State of Oregon and the City of Los Angeles, which have put in place similar office location policies.

The proposal calls for state offices to be designed with a site plan and architecture which is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood, which enhances pedestrian access, and which supports other uses such as nearby retail services. To the extent feasible and consistent with market conditions, state offices should include ground floor retail or other uses which strengthen the streetscape. Consideration should be given to including a mix of uses within the development of state offices.

The proposal also calls upon the State to consult, throughout the process of design and development, with the affected local jurisdiction and the community.

Under the proposal, where a location within the central business district is not feasible, the policy calls for state offices to be located within existing mixed-use commercial districts with high quality, frequent transit service; nearby affordable housing; and pedestrian access to retail and other services. In addition, priority for location of state offices would be given to areas in need of economic revitalization.